

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2002-349-C - ORDER NO. 2002-802  
NOVEMBER 21, 2002

IN RE: Application of Touch 1 Communications, Inc. ) ORDER GRANTING  
for Approval of Alternative Regulation. ) MODIFIED  
 ) ALTERNATIVE  
 ) REGULATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application for Alternative Regulation of Touch 1 Communications, Inc. (Touch 1 or the Company) for its interexchange telecommunications services. The Company seeks to have the Commission regulate its long distance business service, consumer card service, operator service, and private line service offerings in accordance with the policy and procedures established for relaxed regulation in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, the matter was published in the Commission's subscription service. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. We will therefore proceed to dispose of the matter summarily.

Touch 1 indicates a desire to have the Company's business services regulated by alternative regulation. It is Touch 1's intent by this request to have its business services regulated in the same manner as this Commission has permitted for AT&T

Communications of the Southern States in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 96-661-C.

We have examined the Application, and hold that the relief requested should be granted as filed. Accordingly, modified alternative regulation is granted to Touch 1 as described below.

The Commission adopts a rate design for the long distance services of Touch 1 which is consistent with the principles and procedures established for alternative regulation for business service offerings set out in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. Under the Commission approved alternative regulation, the business service offerings of Touch 1 including consumer card services, and operator services, are subject to a relaxed regulatory scheme identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 96-661-C. However, pursuant to Order No. 2001-997 (Docket No. 2000-407-C), this Commission modified alternative regulation by the re-imposition of rate caps with regard to certain "operator-assisted calls" where a customer uses a local exchange carrier's calling card to complete calls from locations which have not selected that local exchange carrier as the toll provider. Order No. 2001-997, dated November 8, 2001, imposed a maximum cap of \$1.75 for operator surcharges for such calls, and a maximum cap of \$0.35 related to the flat per-minute rate associated with these calls. Under this relaxed regulatory scheme, tariff filings for business services shall be presumed valid upon filing. The Commission will have seven (7) days in which to institute an investigation of any tariff filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular tariff filing within the seven days,

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the tariff filing will then be suspended until further Order of the Commission. Any relaxation in the future reporting requirements that may be adopted for AT&T shall apply to Touch 1 also.

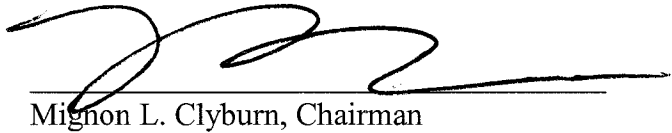
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ATTEST

  
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Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)

  
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Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman